

h. J. King

BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year 1961



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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December, 1961)

≠ R.H. MESS (Chairman of the Council)	Ullingswick
≠ J.L. POWELL (Vice-Chairman of the Council)	..		Edwyn Ralph
≠ J.T. ARNETT	..	..	Stoke Lacy
H.A. BAYLISS	..	..	Little Cowarne
≠ Mrs. C. de C.S. BEAUCHAMP	..	..	Norton
≠ Major M.A. BELLVILLE (Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee)			Tedstone Delamere
T.G. BEMAND	..	..	Grendon Bishop
≠ Miss D.A. BOUCHER	..	..	Cradley
≠ F. CALE	..	..	Cradley
J. CONGDON	..	..	Cradley
≠ I.T. DAVIES	..	..	Linton
H.G. EDWARDS	..	..	Wolferlow
F.C.L. ESSENHIGH	..	..	Brockhampton
≠ Rev. C. GREEN	..	..	Felton
S.B. GREEN	..	..	Whitbourne
W.E. GREENHOUGH	..	..	Thornbury with Hampton Charles
≠ O.H.M. HERFORD	..	..	Bredenbury
≠ The Late Capt. L.R. HIBBERT	..	..	Stanford Bishop
≠ H.C.C. HODGES	..	..	Avenbury
≠ J.F. HYDE	..	..	Ocle Pychard
≠ M.E. KANNREUTHER (Vice-Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee)			Bishops Frome
S. LEIGHTON	..	..	Collington
≠ R. MAUND	..	..	Much Cowarne
J.C. PAGE	..	..	Edvin Loach, Saltmarsh and Tedstone Wafre
≠ W.D. PORTER	..	..	Acton Beauchamp
≠ Miss M. SHEPHERD	..	..	Whitbourne
O.J.E. SKYRM	..	..	Upper Sapey
≠ D.J. THOMAS	..	..	Pencombe with Grendon Warren
≠ J.H. WALLER	..	..	Winslow
≠ Rev. W.G. WALTON	..	..	Bishops Frome

≠ Members of the Housing and Health Committee

G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westfield Walk,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

N.E. WORDSALL, M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector,

Council Offices, New Road,

BROMYARD.

(Telephone: Bromyard 3197)

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health: C.A. PREECE

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector: Miss J.H. LANGSTON

Clerk of the Council: J.B. SENIOR, Solicitor.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Rural
District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1961, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

Vital Statistics

As in previous years, the birth rate was substantially above average. The Death Rate was higher than of late, with specific increases in the rates of death from Cancer and heart disease.

Infectious Diseases

Nothing of especial note occurred during the year.

Housing

The Council's policy of supplementing their house building by buying old houses continues, as Mr. Worsdall has pointed out in his section of the report. The Council now owns six such houses and each is serving a very useful purpose.

While the first house was bought to provide adequate accommodation for a grossly overcrowded large near-problem family, subsequent houses have not been bought so much with a definite tenant in view as with the aim of using empty houses to the best advantage.

These houses provide a simple but acceptable standard of comfort without the necessity of becoming part of a modern estate, and so relieve tenants of limited means and aspirations of the necessity of attempting to reach a standard which they cannot attain. The tenants in these cases have come from either dilapidated huts and vans, or condemned property of a standard so low as truly not to be fit for pigs.

I hope the Council will continue in this course, and that other councils will follow in their footsteps.

I would like to thank Mr. Worsdall for completing much of this report, and for his help in the past year.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	61,114
Estimated mid-year home population	.. ..	6,780
Average number of persons per acre	.. ..	.11
Number of inhabited houses	.. ..	2,286
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	.. ..	.04
Average number of persons per house	.. ..	2.97
Rateable Value	.. ..	£33,092
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.. ..	£123. 6. 6d.

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ..	55	55	110
Illegitimate ..	-	3	3
	<hr/> 55	<hr/> 58	<hr/> 113

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	16.7	17.7	13.5	16.4	16.8
" " (Adjusted)	18.7	19.8	15.1	18.2	18.8
England and Wales	17.4	17.1	16.5	16.4	16.1

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Bromyard R.D.	.. 2.7
England and Wales	.. figure not yet available

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Bromyard R.D. ..	8.8	14.2	20.2	33.6	32.5
England and Wales ..	18.7	19.8	21.0	21.6	22.4

Total Live and Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	55	56	111
Illegitimate	-	3	3
	<hr/> 55	<hr/> 59	<hr/> 114

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	≠

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	17.7
England and Wales	..	≠

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	..	8.8
England and Wales	..	≠

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>

≠ figures not yet available

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Bromyard R.D.	(Total	26.6	Nil	52.0	26.0	33.6
	(Legitimate	27.3	Nil	52.6	28.5	33.6
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England & Wales	(Total	21.4	21.9	22.2	22.5	23.1
	(Legitimate	≠	21.5	21.9	22.3	22.8
	(Illegitimate	≠	26.4	27.4	27.8	30.0

≠ figures not yet available

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D. .. Nil
 England and Wales .. ≠

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:	50	57	107

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	15.8	11.3	11.9	10.3	15.7
" " (Adjusted)	11.4	8.8	10.2	7.9	11.8
England and Wales	12.0	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.5

Cancer

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:	11	12	23

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Bromyard R.D.	3.39	1.70	1.84	1.70	2.27
England and Wales	≠	2.16	2.14	2.12	2.09

Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:	22	35	57

Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Bromyard R.D.	8.41	5.10	5.39	6.24	7.65
England and Wales	≠	6.00	5.88	6.07	5.84

≠ figures not yet available

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease	8	1	9

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Bromyard R.D.	1.33	1.70	2.13	0.85	2.97
England and Wales	*	1.26	1.53	1.37	1.38

* figure not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	5	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	3	3
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	12	21
Coronary disease, angina	7	13	20
Hypertension with heart disease	-	3	3
Other heart disease	4	5	9
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Bronchitis	3	-	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	5	9
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	-	1	1
TOTAL:	50	57	107

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

Disease	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957
Whooping Cough	11	10	1	1	30
Measles	57	17	99	29	65
Scarlet Fever	1	4	8	13	6
Erysipelas	-	-	2	-	2
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	2	5	8
Dysentery	2	5	3	9	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	-	1	1	-	4
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	-	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis:					
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	2

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE

Whooping Cough	126	70	38	39	192
Measles	583	189	388	258	144
Scarlet Fever	11	23	46	28	71
Erysipelas	3	4	4	2	7
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	1	3	-	-	-
Post-Infectious	-	1	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	18	18	33	14	49
Dysentery	62	123	3	16	38
Food Poisoning	11	39	3	5	10
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	2	3
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	9	7	13	7	33
Non-Pulmonary	2	3	2	3	4
Acute Poliomyelitis:					
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	12
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	14

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1961

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	9	23	15	29	32	11	13	-	2	-	2	-	126
Measles	19	62	218	86	50	37	38	22	16	17	18	-	583
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	5	1	1	11
Erysipelas	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Acute Encephalitis:													
Infective	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Pneumonia	5	5	-	1	1	2	-	-	1	1	1	1	18
Dysentery	-	2	17	9	17	7	1	-	5	4	-	-	62
Food Poisoning	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	2	1	11
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	1	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	9
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	North Here- fordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	3.47	0.53
Measles	16.08	16.52
Scarlet Fever	0.30	0.43
Erysipelas	0.08	0.05
Acute Encephalitis:		
Infective	0.03	0.003
Acute Pneumonia	0.49	0.40
Dysentery	1.71	0.44
Food Poisoning	0.30	0.17
* Puerperal Pyrexia	1.71	0.01
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.25	0.42
Non-Pulmonary	0.06	0.06

* per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1960.	20	21	9	8
Moved into district	-	1	-	-
Moved out of district	-	-	1	-
Recovered	3	1	-	-
Died from other causes	1	-	-	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1961.	16	21	8	8

TUBERCULOSIS (Continued)

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1957	5	64	Nil	1
1958	Nil	63	Nil	2
1959	Nil	56	1	3
1960	3	58	1	2
1961	Nil	53	1	4

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

During the year 71 samples of water were taken for examination, with the following results:

1. Public sources (i.e., Water Board and Local Authority)

	Satis.	Unsatis.	Total
Bacteriological	40	10	50
Chemical	-	-	-

2. Private sources

Bacteriological	13	6	19
Chemical	1	1	2

Where bacteriological examination showed contamination, householders were advised to boil the water.

Water Supply Schemes

It is always difficult to get away from routine in an Annual Report, especially on a subject which is all too often conspicuous by its absence. On this occasion a look back to 1954 might add some interest. Water supplies in much of the County are primitive in comparison with practically the whole of England and progress towards parity has been painfully slow. Once more therefore, the usual figures are omitted, but a minimum are included at the Ministry's insistence and it is hoped their import is fully comprehended.

WATER SUPPLIES (Continued)

- 1954 - Engineers instructed to prepare scheme from River Teme source. Formation of County Water Board supported - practically the only Council to do so. Bishop's Frome village scheme mentioned;
- 1955 - Controversy over proposed Water Board became sharper. Engineers instructed to prepare schemes for Bishop's Frome and Bredenbury villages;
- 1956 - Annual Report extract - "For practical purposes 1956 was a poor year" Ministry published draft Water Board Order - a last effort to get L.A.'s to agree to co-operate. Controversy still. Engineers produced schemes and estimates for Bishop's Frome and Bredenbury. Engineers reported on Cradley. Standpipe erected at Edwyn Ralph !
- 1957 - Ministry gave notice of intention to make final order. Controversy more acute - Bromyard may get one ally from the other rurals. Tenders received for Bishop's Frome. Ministry's enquiry into proposed Water Board held in March;
- 1958 - A red letter year in that Bromyard R.D.C., became a Water Undertaker for the first time, by the completion of the small Bishop's Frome scheme. Bredenbury village scheme started. Perhaps most significant advance was Ministry allowing the Council to plan in detail first stage of the comprehensive scheme covering Whitbourne, Norton, Bromyard, Cradley and Pencombe;
- 1959 - A fine, dry summer and the Fire Brigade virtually became Water Undertakers and more people were convinced of the necessity for a proper water supply. Engineers nearly completed plans of comprehensive scheme. Arrangements for wayleaves and purchase of land in hand. Bredenbury village scheme completed;
- 1960 - The Herefordshire Water Board became into being and inevitably took time to establish its administrative organisation and to "get the feel" of the more important schemes. In the Bromyard district most of the smaller supplies passed on to the Board, continued to be managed by the Council;
- 1961 - Bromyard District Scheme accepted by the Ministry in 1958 now given first priority by the Water Board, and further, the parishes of Wolferlow and Upper Sapey are to be supplied from the Tenbury R.D., as part of a joint scheme with Martley R.D. Work on this started about Christmas 1961. In addition a small village scheme at Edwyn Ralph, associated with a new housing site, was provided by the Water Board and much appreciated by the local inhabitants.

WATER SUPPLIES (Continued)Dwelling-houses supplied from public water mains direct
to houses

Parish	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Population (approx)
Bishop's Frome	41	-	185
Bredenbury	48	-	216
Edwyn Ralph	15	-	45
Cradley -			
Heathfields	-	2	9
Buryfields	29	-	141
Evesbatch	4	-	18
Fromes Hill	23	-	104
Ocle Pychard	15	-	68
Pencombe	-	8	36
Sparrington	10	-	45
Stanford Bishop	7	-	32
Stoke Lacy	10	-	45
Tedstone Delamere	7	-	32
Ullingswick	4	-	18
Upper Sapey	-	7	32
Whitbourne	-	9	41
Wolferlow	-	2	9
	213	28	1,076

Dwelling-houses supplied from public water mains by means
of standpipes

No. of houses served (approx)	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Population (approx)
12	8	4	48

HOUSING

Last year reference was made in this report to four main items - (a) provision of O.P. Bungalows on existing sites, (b) the Bromyard central scheme, (c) purchase of older properties for special families, and (d) improvement grants.

Improvement Grants continued to demand attention and the cumulative result since 1950 is most rewarding when viewed within the whole housing picture. Standard Grants attracted increasing interest and it is probable the inauguration of water schemes will give added impetus to Standard Grants. It is an unfortunate symptom of the times, that really competitive tenders have often been difficult to obtain and in many instances building work progressed so very slowly.

By the end of 1961 the Council owned six lower standard but sound cottages, and all were occupied by special families, and, incidentally, much appreciated. This activity has much to commend it and is complementary to the normal building programme which, for various reasons, has proved difficult to get started again.

The imaginative Bromyard old peoples' bungalows and school teachers accommodation scheme has really not moved one inch during the whole of 1961, due entirely to a failure to get agreement with one of the land-owners on the question of compensation. There are those who thought this project well suited to the needs of several parishes adjoining the urban district, especially for the elderly and retired, often living in situations inappropriate to their age.

Finally it is a pleasure to record that early in 1962 the Council's first two sites for old peoples' bungalows should be occupied; at Fromes Hill and Edwyn Ralph. Plans were pushed ahead for three further sites in 1962, Whitbourne, Ocle Pychard, and Stoke Lacy. In addition, land was purchased at Cradley.

Improvement Grants

	<u>1961 only</u>	<u>Total to Dec. 1961</u>
No. of houses in respect of which full applications were made	17	201
No. of houses in respect of which grants were offered	17	190
No. of houses in respect of which applications were refused or withdrawn	-	4
No. of houses in respect of which improvement works were completed	18	159

HOUSING (Continued)Improvement Grants (Continued)

	<u>1961 only</u>	<u>Total to Dec. 1961</u>
Total value of works approved for grant	£15,375. 0. 0d.	£131,967.10. 4d.
Total grant offered in respect of above works	£6,053. 5. 0d.	£56,440.17. 1d.

Standard Grants

No. of houses in respect of which applications were made	25	-
No. of dwellings improved	8	14
No. of applications approved	23	-
Value of grant paid	£1,125. 0. 0d.	£1,716.11.10d.

Unfit Houses

Number of houses subject to Time & Place Notices	-	13
" " " " " Demolition Orders	-	3
" " " " " Closing Orders	-	Nil
" " "on which Undertakings were accepted	-	8
" " " " " to repair were accepted	-	1

New Houses

Number of private dwellings completed	-	9
" " " " in course of erection, December 1961	-	13

Category V positions

The position regarding Category V houses is now:-

Number of houses in Category V at end of 1960	-	162
Deleted from all records	-	Nil
Placed in higher category	-	<u>1</u>
Total Category V houses to be dealt with at end of 1961	-	<u>161</u>

SEWERAGE

It is still very broadly true that a general absence of public water mains means that problems of sewerage and sewage disposal have not arisen in an acute form. However, the villages of Bredenbury and Bishop's Frome have satisfactory water systems and the Council met the situation by instructing their Consulting Engineers to prepare sewerage schemes for both villages.

In addition, the Engineers are to report on schemes for Cradley, Pencombe, and Linton, the intention being to anticipate the arrival of water in 1963/4. The Council is acutely aware of drainage problems which are bound to appear in each of these parishes. There is the further point that a sewerage plan is necessary to accommodate a proposed housing estate at Cradley, and it is evident some private development will follow the provision of water.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

In company with the Rural Districts of Hereford, Ross and Ledbury, the effort to control damage by rats in particular has continued and thanks are due to the officers concerned with this scheme.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is no public swimming bath in the district.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Once again the contract service has functioned well, perhaps with emphasis on scavenging the Common Lands. Clearly the problem of litter is fast coming to a head and unless the visiting public can be persuaded or coerced into tidier conduct, the Council will have to consider spending more money on scavenging.

An increasing number of refuse containers and incinerators are positioned over the Common in an attempt to control the nuisance, and each is emptied fortnightly during the summer period. Both the number of receptacles and the interval between clearances will require constant review.

The figures since 1953 are:-

	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Properties</u>	<u>Loads</u>
1953	5560	16675	172
1954	6421	17371	182
1955	6487	18032	185
1956	7228	19591	202½
1957	7432½	19989	198
1958	7508	22758	243
1959	7957	23698	253½
1960	8036	23780	253
1961	8820	25361	306½

HOP PICKING ACCOMMODATION

A summary of the 1961 position is given below:

Total number of farms	..	68
Number of farms housing pickers	..	13
Number of farms with local pickers	..	55
Approx. number of pickers housed in 1961 (excluding travellers, gypsies and small children)	..	222
Estimated children	..	100
Estimated travellers	..	150

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Food and Drugs Act.

Number of food shops	..	29
Number of public houses	..	25
Number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	..	22

(b) Slaughter of Animals.

Number of licensed slaughtermen	..	8
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Slaughterhouses

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

Premises	No. on Register
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be en- forced by the L.A.	1
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	5
TOTAL	6

Number of Inspections	..	Nil
Number of Written Notices	..	Nil
Cases in which defects were found or remedied	..	Nil

